The Briefing, Summer 2013

Andrew Young School of Policy Studies

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Science Careers’ First Person of the Year
We are halfway through Georgia State University’s centennial year, which the university community has been celebrating all year long with a variety of events, speakers and parties. In this issue of The Briefing, we celebrate the high-quality policy education, research and outreach that are the hallmark of the Andrew Young School.

Our signature event for Georgia State’s centennial was an urban policy discussion held by Ambassador Andrew Young and Professor Harvey Newman in January. This standing-room-only event was moderated by Adjunct Professor Andrea Young, who led the conversation into an interesting discussion about the deals, compromises and public-private partnerships that shaped Atlanta and our university.

Probably the best-known attribute of our school is its everyday engagement in real-life policy. The stories in this issue attest to the importance of translating research into policy and of involving policymakers and practitioners in the analyses of public policy issues. For example, last semester we partnered with the Center for the Advancement of Leadership Skills to deliver a three-day workshop for state government officials from across the Southeast. Another important event we held was the Fiscal Research Center’s forum on the public finance issues faced by public schools.

Our founding dean, Roy Bahl, instilled policy engagement into the culture of our school. An event hosted by the International Center for Public Policy last fall celebrated Dr. Bahl’s career achievements in combining excellence in academic research with wide-ranging policy expertise delivered to governments around the world. The event brought together renowned scholars in public finance to discuss taxation in developing countries, an area in which our faculty continue to make significant contributions. The event served as an important reminder that the ethos of policy engagement supported by academic expertise underpins all we do.

In closing, it is particularly exciting to showcase the important research of my longtime friend and mentor, economist Paula Stephan. Her path-breaking work on how the economics of federal funding and the structure of our institutions have affected the labor markets of scientists who conduct research has attracted huge attention across the globe. The distinction of being named “Person of the Year” by Science Careers is really icing on the cake of Dr. Stephan’s remarkably successful academic career.

Mary Beth Walker
Dean

Policy Engagement Makes a Lasting Impact Outside Our Century-old University

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Andrew Young School of Policy Studies
Economist

Economics is about incentives and cost …

PAULA STEPHAN
It began last January with the publication of her latest book, “How Economics Shapes Science,” to great acclaim. As the year came to a close in December, Science Careers, part of the journal Science, named her its first Person of the Year. Between those two events, Stephan has been more in demand than ever before.

“Economics is about incentives and cost, so I’m very interested in how scientific enterprise is practiced at universities,” Stephan says of her work. “It’s been unusually busy since the book came out, and now with sequestration and budget issues and all the problems that young people are having, the topics I work on have become perhaps more policy-relevant.”

In her book, Stephan explores the basic economic principles of incentive, cost and risk as they apply to scientific research at universities. Cost-benefit calculations figure prominently in funding and hiring decisions, leading to “safe” research topics, inequitable earning and diminished career prospects for young scientists struggling in a glutted labor market, she has found.

Stephan’s expertise on the economics of science and careers of young people in the field has taken her across the United States and Europe. Since publishing her book, she has given more than a dozen talks at conferences and symposia of policy and scientific organizations, and she has several more lined up this year.

In addition to her speaking engagements, Stephan fields frequent press inquiries and has been tapped to write articles and op-eds for scientific journals and other publications.

Science Careers describes Stephan as “an individual who, during the past 12 months, has made an especially significant and sustained contribution to the welfare of early-career scientists.” The publication noted in a story announcing the Person of the Year award that, over the years, her work has changed the conversation around the scientific workforce.

Stephan continues to influence the national dialogue by serving on the National Research Council Board on Higher Education and Workforce, the national academies’ Committee on Science, Engineering and Public Policy, and the Board of Reviewing Editors for Science, on top of her research and ongoing projects.

Trained as a labor economist, Stephan began to study the economics of the sciences not long after arriving at Georgia State University in 1971. A researcher at the National Science Foundation drew her attention to data on hiring patterns in the sciences in the late 1970s, and she’s been working on related topics since.

Some of Stephan’s upcoming projects focus on earning inequality, the role of foreign-born people in the field and the way research funding is spent at universities, subjects that mirror more general policy concerns across the country.

“I never would have predicted these topics would be so much on people’s minds,” Stephan says. “Some progress has been made, but there’s a lot more progress that needs to be made.”
Host to Leadership and Urban Policy Events

Through the year, the Dean’s Office and AYSPS faculty and center directors are frequently asked to brief current and aspiring policymakers on the work of the school as well as important policy concepts and skills essential to their field. Highlights of some recent gatherings follow.

Center for the Advancement of Leadership Skills

The Andrew Young School hosted the 2012 Center for the Advancement of Leadership Skills conference in partnership with the Southern Legislative Conference (SLC) in September. The event drew upon the school’s expert faculty to design and create the instructional program, which was attended by state legislators and members of the executive branches and judicial systems from the SLC’s 15 member states.

AYSPS faculty also led four days of policy workshops – in partnership with instructors from the SLC – on topics that included economics, healthcare reform and adaptive leadership. The training is designed to help SLC members build on their communication, conflict resolution, consensus building and critical decision-making leadership skills.

Georgia Congressional Staff Meeting

Also in September, nearly a dozen of the directors, assistants, deputy directors and other senior legislative staff members for Georgia’s congressional delegation descended upon the Dean’s Office to learn more about the mission and programs of the Andrew Young School. Of particular interest to this audience were presentations on the work of the Georgia Health Policy Center, made by Director Karen Minyard, and on the Fiscal Research Center, made by Director Sally Wallace, who also chairs the economics department.
Ambassador Andrew Young and Professor Harvey Newman led faculty and friends in a conversation on the important policies that have shaped Atlanta and Georgia State University at a public forum in January. Topics centered on the vital policy decisions Young made as mayor and Georgia State’s impact on the surrounding city as an urban university.

Young and Newman revealed how many of the projects have joined the city of Atlanta and Georgia State in the past and how each of their roles changed during these partnerships. The discussion was moderated by Andrea Young, executive director of the Andrew Young Foundation.

Georgia State University has partnered with the University of Chicago and other universities to establish a new Science of Philanthropy Initiative that will explore the underpinnings of philanthropy. Funded by a generous $4.8 million grant from the John Templeton Foundation, the initiative joins research faculty in strategic partnerships with local and national nonprofits to learn more about the science behind charitable giving.

Michael Price, associate professor of economics in the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, has joined a team of researchers that will lead studies seeking answers to the big questions about philanthropy: Why do people give? How do people give across the life cycle and across cultures, and how can philanthropy be increased?

“We expect our initiative to produce research that will give practitioners around the world a better understanding of the underlying motives for charitable giving. Our work will advance new strategies for soliciting gifts that will improve donors’ well-being and increase giving,” says Price. “Improved knowledge of the decisions that shape philanthropic giving can be applied by practitioners and policymakers interested in philanthropy and the private provision of public goods.”

The Science of Philanthropy Initiative will host an annual conference, speaker and webinar series, and a competitive small grants program. Researchers and scholars from the economics and psychology departments at the University of Chicago are collaborating on the program with those from Georgia State, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Brown University and the University of Minnesota.

Learn more about the Science of Philanthropy Initiative at www.spihub.org.
GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY, the No. 1 nonprofit institution in the nation for awarding bachelor’s degrees to African American students, leads the country in graduating minorities with a 17 percent one-year increase according to Diverse: Issues in Higher Education.

The university surpassed Florida A&M and North Carolina A&T University, presenting 1,262 bachelor’s degrees to African Americans in 2012. In the last decade, Georgia State has raised its graduation rates by 29 percent. It has been appointed one of the “Top 100 Colleges for Hispanics Bachelor’s, Master’s and Doctoral degrees” by The Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education and is one of the top 50 institutions in the country for graduating Asian students.

Enrichment programs like the university’s Freshman Learning Communities, which allow students to develop peer support as they move through class sections together, and Keep HOPE Alive, which provides students the opportunity to regain the HOPE scholarship through intensive workshops, partnered with early intervention and proactive academic advising have all influenced student success.

Academic advisors have also begun using a new advising system that identifies struggling students before their grades falter – the first of its kind in the nation.

“Georgia State is committed to serving all students and helping them reach their goals. With these new programs and resources, I am confident our students will attain even higher levels of success,” says Timothy Renick, Georgia State’s associate provost for academic programs and chief enrollment officer.

Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, Enrollment by Race: Spring 2012

**Undergraduate**

- 32.7%
- 49.9%
- 50.5%
- 3.4%
- 6.4%
- 6.7%

**Graduate**

- 15.5%
- 25.3%
- 1.9%
- 7.2%
- 0.2%

- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Black
- White
- 2 or more races
- Not reported

www.andrewyoungschool.org
Georgia, which ranks among the top states for sickle cell disease, is one of seven states participating in a pilot project with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) called the Registry and Surveillance System for Hemoglobinopathies (RuSH).

Since 2010, the Georgia Health Policy Center (GHPC) has joined others collecting information for this project to learn about the number of people living with sickle cell and thalassemias, members of the family of inherited blood disorders known as hemoglobinopathies. Research findings based on this data “may provide new ideas for drug therapies and can spur the development of tests that can determine severity of diseases over the lifespan,” according to the NIH. “Such data are essential for public health agencies to allocate adequate resources to meet the medical and social service needs of these patients.”

“In this project we determined the annual incidence and prevalence of sickle cell disease and thalassemia in Georgia between 2004 and 2008,” says Angela Snyder, a GHPC research assistant professor. “We also defined the demographics of those living with these disorders in order to address their health care and resource needs.” GHPC has partnered with the Georgia Department of Public Health, Sickle Cell Foundation of Georgia, Grady Health System, Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta and Georgia Regents University on this project.

Early research outcomes have enabled the team to identify where to focus outreach efforts and will aid the development of educational materials for providers, policymakers and legislators.

Using the RuSH project as a model, Snyder and colleagues are now involved in collecting data for the CDC-funded Public Health Research, Epidemiology and Surveillance for Hemoglobinopathies (PHRESH) project. Snyder co-directs the Georgia PHRESH project with the Georgia Department of Public Health.

“In PHRESH we are validating the methods used in RuSH to determine the prevalence of sickle cell disease,” explains Snyder. “We are assessing how the data can be used for developing health promotion materials, highlighting prevention awareness, determining what medications work for patients and that children’s immunizations are up to date, and ensuring health promotion materials go out to health providers for their patients. The NIH also wants the RuSH data to go to primary care physicians and other specialists to ensure they have the correct information to meet health promotion and prevention guidelines.”

Snyder says the NIH is planning to come out with clinical treatment guidelines to support medical subspecialists in jointly treating these patients as they age.

Researchers on the RuSH project believe the data will be helpful to other states interested in developing similar surveillance systems for sickle cell and thalassemia patients. Learn more about the RuSH project at www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/hemoglobinopathies/index.html.
Georgia has the fifth fastest-growing population aged 60 and over, according to the Georgia Department of Human Services Division of Aging Services. Between 2010 and 2030, this population is expected to increase 66 percent to 2,533,710 persons, and the count for those aged 85 and over is projected to nearly double.

The large spike in Georgia’s senior population is expected to result in more cases of dementia and Alzheimer’s disease, which will create a greater need for services such as transportation, health care and in-home support for the elderly. Currently, most programs address these diseases near the end of a person’s life; however, there is a growing need for programs that address these individuals’ needs early on.

To this end, the Georgia Division of Aging Services (DAS) applied for and received two U.S. Administration on Aging grants: Alzheimer’s Disease Innovation and Dementia Capable Sustainable Service System Grant. DAS contracted with the Georgia Alzheimer’s Association to assist with programs designed to improve services to persons in the early stages of the disease – and their families – and the Georgia Health Policy Center (GHPC) to evaluate these multiple interventions.

GHPC research associates Elizabeth Fuller, Susan McLaren and Kristi Fuller are co-principal investigators on the evaluation of these projects: a clinical counseling program for people with early-stage Alzheimer’s disease, a driver assessment program, and a family support program called TCARE, or Tailored Care-giver Assessment and Referral.

“Georgia has some innovative interventions that are the only programs of their kind in the country designed for persons with early stage Alzheimer’s disease,” says Elizabeth Fuller. “It was exciting to be a part of evaluating these new programs.”

Clinical Counseling
The clinical counseling program, developed by nationally recognized clinical social worker Robyn Yale, uses psychotherapeutic techniques to understand, prevent and relieve psychologically based distress or dysfunction.

The program was piloted in Atlanta and Augusta. Clinical counselors and social workers worked with 17 newly diagnosed participants who, in GHPC interviews, expressed “an extremely positive experience in the counseling program.” Participants
reported that this program helped them with their emotional adjustment and provided practical coping skills and resources such as memory aids and cognitive exercises.

“In the two years of interviews we conducted, every participant said that he or she would recommend the program to others,” says Fuller. “It seemed to really meet a need that people had right after diagnosis.”

Driving Assessment and TCARE
In the first program, a sample of people with early-stage Alzheimer’s disease had their driving capacity evaluated to assess whether they met the cognitive and physical requirements of driving. The evaluation included a written exam, sign recognition, driver simulation, road test and vision exam.

“Through our interviews we found that almost half of the participants ceased driving after the evaluation,” says McLaren. “Although the families were very supportive, it was hard for some early-stage Alzheimer’s participants to face the reality of losing their independence.”

The team also evaluated the state’s TCARE program to assess the well-being of caregivers.

Based on a University of Wisconsin program, TCARE was piloted with a sample of 51 caregivers in middle Georgia, Augusta and Savannah through the Area Agencies on Aging and local Alzheimer’s Association chapters. Caregivers, mostly women caring for their mothers in their homes, received TCARE evaluations quarterly to adjust the resources they needed.

“The study’s small sample size made it difficult to make definitive conclusions on the effectiveness of the TCARE program,” says McLaren. “Our preliminary data suggest that TCARE was most effective at lowering burdens like stress, depression and infringement on other aspects of life.”

Evaluations Continue
The GHPC is currently evaluating a telephone reassurance program, caregiver training and financial capacity screening programs.

In the telephone reassurance program, a buddy-system approach has been established to connect caregivers with other caregivers and persons with dementia with like persons. An inexpensive but effective approach, the program enables peers to talk to each other.

Caregiver training, “Powerful Tools for Caregivers,” is a six-week evidence-based course that provides caregivers resources and strategies to better handle their unique challenges through improved self-care.

Financial decision-making is a major concern. Approximately $2.9 billion was lost to this population in 2011 due to financial abuse and exploitation, according to a MetLife study. The Alzheimer’s Association-Georgia Chapter has partnered with the state’s Division of Aging Services, Adult Protective Services to pilot a screening instrument to better determine the financial capacity of an individual with dementia.

“Georgia has invested in cutting-edge programs and services to assist people with dementia,” says Kristi Fuller. “Its work enables those with the disease to be connected and engaged.”

Public Performance and Management Group’s Satisfaction Studies Improve Performance

The initiative’s program design was informed by statewide employee Workplace Satisfaction surveys conducted by the Andrew Young School’s Public Performance and Management Group. The goal was to increase employee satisfaction scores by two points. The results: a year after the initiative’s kick-off, the average score had risen five points.

The Public Performance and Management Group is recognized for its expertise in measuring customer satisfaction, employee satisfaction and employee engagement. Its services are available to city and county governments as well as state agencies. For more information contact Professor Greg Streib, program director, at info@ppmgsu.org or 404-413-0184. Go to http://www.ppmgsu.org/.
A room packed with state and local policymakers, students and academicians attended the Fiscal Research Center’s November program, “Weathering the Perfect Storm: Options and Issues for the Future of School Finance in Georgia.”

Nationally recognized Andrew Young School education policy and school finance scholars and their presentations included:

- Professor Tim Sass on “Using Research to Help School Districts Facing Tough Choices”
- Professor David Sjoquist on “Property Tax and Education: Have We Reached the Limit?”
- Associate Professor Eric Brunner and Research Associate Nick Warner on “School Facility Funding in Georgia and the ESPLOST”
- Georgia House Appropriations Committee Vice Chairman Tom Dickson and Georgia House Budget and Research Deputy Director Christine Murdock on “The State Funding Formulas: Issues and Options”
- Assistant Dean Cynthia Searcy on the “Impact of the Recession on School Revenues Across the State”

The presentations were followed by a panel discussion on “Finance and School District Challenges.” Panels included the state’s top education policymakers including Herb Garrett, executive director of the Georgia School Superintendents Association; Angela Palm, director of policy and legislative services for the Georgia School Boards Association; Kelly McCutchen, president and chief executive officer of the Georgia Public Policy Foundation; and Ryan Mahoney, vice president of public policy for the Georgia Chamber of Commerce.

Presentations are available at http://aysps.gsu.edu/frc/edu-fin.

International Fiscal Policy Conference Honors Founding Dean

Eminent fiscal policy scholars from all over the world gathered in Stone Mountain, Ga., last fall to honor Andrew Young School of Policy Studies founding dean Roy Bahl at the conference, “Taxation and Development: The Weakest Link” (Essays in Honor of Roy Bahl). Sponsored by the school’s International Center for Public Policy, participants — many of whom are Bahl’s friends, colleagues and students — presented essays to provide the basis for an important book on taxation in developing countries.

Presentations delved into issues such as the critical importance of administration in shaping outcomes; changes that have taken place in tax performance and tax thinking; how new develop-
Olken’s research focuses on the political economy of developing countries, with a particular focus on corruption. He directs the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab, commonly known as J-PAL. A network of 70 professors working in the area of randomized evaluations in universities around the globe, J-PAL’s mission is to reduce poverty by ensuring that policy is based on scientific evidence.

In Indonesia, Olken is involved in several randomized evaluations that seek to reduce corruption and improve targeting of programs that provide local public goods to villages. His presentation focused on a field experiment in 400 Indonesian villages that empirically tested whether ordeal mechanisms improve the targeting of aid programs to the poor.

Olken is associate editor of the Journal of Development Economics. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Harvard.

Bahl, who has dedicated much of his career on the study and improvement of tax systems at both the national and subnational level in developing countries, rounded out the two-day conference by offering lessons learned about strengthening revenue systems in developing countries.

Conference presentations and comments are available as video clips at www.facebook.com/pages/International-Center-for-Public-Policy/116735631679589?viewas=0&sk=app_4949752878.
Fiscal Research Center Reports Now Available

The Fiscal Research Center (FRC) has published new reports highlighting Georgia’s state and local tax structure, tax expenditures and their impact on state revenues, and the loss of premium and low-paying jobs.

Georgia’s Taxes: A Summary of Major State and Local Government Taxes, 19th Edition [FRC Annual Publication A(19)]: Written by professors Carolyn Bourdeaux and Richard Hawkins and senior research associates Peter Bluestone and Robert Buschman, this manual delivers details on Georgia’s state and local tax structure including tax rates, revenue production from taxes and tax rate comparisons to other states. It also includes an overview of important adjustments made in Georgia’s tax policy over time and key facts on the growth of Georgia’s income and sales tax revenue production.

Georgia’s Revenue and Expenditure Portfolio in Brief, 1989-2010 (FRC Policy Brief No. 254, January 2013): According to this policy brief written by Bourdeaux, FRC Research Associate Nicholas Warner and graduate students Sandy Zook and Sungman Jun, Georgia’s per capita revenues and expenditures have fallen from near the middle to the bottom compared to other states. The state raised more per capita revenue and had more capita direct expenditures in FY2010 than in FY1989, but these increases have not matched those in other states. Also during this period, Georgia’s real per capita direct expenditures fell from No. 30 to No. 48, nationally.

Georgia Tax Expenditure Report FY2014: The FRC has prepared this report each of the last three years by request of the state’s Department of Audits and Accounts. It estimates what federal and state tax deductions cost Georgia every year in lost tax revenue. It also details tax credits, exemptions and/or deductions received by businesses and individual taxpayers that are present in all of Georgia’s major taxes, and their values so they can be tracked over time. Copies can be downloaded on the Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget site at http://goo.gl/laV5Q.

As previous assessments have shown, Georgia is more dependent on core revenues than other states, and in the recent recession, it is these revenues that have taken a substantial hit. … The declining core revenues combined with already low non-core revenues have caused Georgia’s revenue rank to drop to 47th in the nation in own source revenues.

The personal income tax was first levied in Georgia in 1929 at a rate equal to one third the federal rate of income taxation. The current rate structure, which includes six brackets ranging from one percent to six percent, has remained unchanged since 1955 … The individual income tax collections equaled $7.7 billion in FY2011 and accounted for 50 percent of Georgia’s revenues from taxation. In CY2011, 4.2 million individual returns were filed with the state.

The state of Georgia appears to have lost a significant share of its premium jobs, while replacing some of these jobs with mid-range jobs. … In general, the metropolitan area is increasing its share of jobs in the state, but this is largely because these counties are just not declining as fast in job losses.

To download FRC publications, go to http://aysps.gsu.edu/frc/publications.
A report by the Fiscal Research Center (FRC) suggests that Georgia legislators looking at any future state tax reform would do well to imitate the framework investors use to balance investment portfolios.

In “Georgia’s Tax Portfolio: Present and Future” (FRC Report No. 247, September 2012), economist Ray D. Nelson proposes Georgia policymakers consider items beyond current tax receipts when discussing adjustments to the state’s tax base or rates. Lawmakers would do better if they designed the state’s tax policy – its mix of sales and income taxes – to meet both short- and long-term goals, the report suggests.

Georgia’s primary revenues are from income and sales taxes. Income taxes add more growth and greater risk to the stream of tax revenues, while sales taxes are more predictable but also grow more slowly. The state’s current tax portfolio uses each of these sources equally.

Recognizing the trade-off between economic growth and volatility, Nelson suggests the state should select tax portfolios that balance these two objectives, which sometimes compete.

“The Great Recession altered the frontier. Georgia’s tax portfolio moved from a position of growth and stability to less growth and more volatility,” says Nelson. “Our report discusses how to move Georgia back into a stronger position with key recommendations to expand the sales tax base and consider alternative revenue sources.

“Adding food to the sales tax base will slightly decrease the growth rate of taxes after giving an initial infusion of tax reve- nue. In other words, tax revenues will grow from a new, higher level, but at a slower rate,” he writes. Because food purchases are fairly stable and consistent over the long run, adding them into the sales tax base also increases predictable revenues.

The report also predicts that personal income taxes, as measured by portfolio percentage, will continue to rise in importance if state legislators forego any changes to the tax structure.

Finally, in order to raise additional revenue, Georgia should investigate the potential of taxing those services it does not already tax. Doing so can create higher growth rates and lower volatility.

Download the report at http://goo.gl/zfp1j.

Conclusions and Suggestions
As Georgia government officials consider future tax changes, it is important to remember that legislative decisions that adjust the tax base or rates not only affect immediate tax receipts, but also alter the long-term expected growth and volatility of revenue streams. In considering the characteristics of Georgia’s economy and its current tax portfolio, the following findings suggest insights that might foster tax policy improvements.

• Although Georgia and southeastern states have enjoyed preferable growth and volatility combinations in the past, recent history shows that the economies of Georgia and other southeastern states are growing more slowly with higher volatility than other states.

• Like most other states, Georgia depends on a combination of income and sales taxes. The income tax imparts both high growth and risk to the stream of tax revenues. Although sales taxes grow more slowly, they do have less uncertainty and volatility. Currently, Georgia’s tax portfolio combines the growth and volatility of these two tax sources equally.

• Because of the higher expected growth rate of personal income taxes, it should be expected that the importance of personal income taxes as measured by their portfolio percentage will continue to rise if no changes are made to the tax structure.

• Georgia’s economy gives it a favorable position in the growth and volatility grid. Its tax portfolio, however, causes it to move to an inferior position relative to some of its bordering states.

• Adding food to the sales tax base will slightly decrease the growth rate of taxes after giving an initial infusion of tax revenue. In other words, tax revenues will grow from a new, higher level but at a slower rate. Because of the stability of food purchases, this addition to the sales tax base will also cause revenues to be less volatile.

• In order to raise additional revenue, Georgia might also want to investigate the potential higher growth rates and lower volatility inherent in any services not already taxed.
Studies Show Race and School Discipline have Long-Term Consequences

Report Examines Georgia's ESPLOST

Were state policymakers to allow the use of Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Taxes, or ESPLOSTs, to fund local operating costs for schools, ESPLOST revenue could cover between 17 and 31 percent of these funds according to a new Fiscal Research Center study. ESPLOSTs have been implemented at various times in 158 of the state’s 159 counties and have represented as much as 80 percent of the facility funding available to school districts. Local voters consider ESPLOSTs a popular alternative to property taxes, with 94 percent of local referenda passing in the 16 years since this legislation was approved.

Associate Professor Eric Brunner and Research Associate Nicholas Warner examine the ESPLOST in Georgia in FRC Report No. 250 and Policy Brief No. 250 and find:

• ESPLOSTs have helped improve capital investment in Georgia’s schools. Prior to the ESPLOST, Georgia lagged other high-growth states in spending per pupil on school facilities; after, Georgia is now closer to the average.

• Before the ESPLOST, long-term debt per pupil in 1996 was approximately $3,900 in school districts outside Georgia and $3,200 in the state. By 2008 this debt averaged nearly $8,000 per pupil outside Georgia and only $3,560 in Georgia.

• ESPLOST measures are popular. They pass by similar margins regardless of when an ESPLOST referendum is held. (See table at right.)

• Districts have significantly different sales tax bases, providing for significant variation in revenues available through
Does race matter in school discipline? Associate professor Christine Roch looked at student-teacher racial and ethnic matches, called “representation” in school bureaucracy, and discovered race was a significant factor in the types of punishments students received. She first reported this finding in “Representative Bureaucracy and Policy Tools: Ethnicity, Student Discipline, and Representation in Public Schools,” (Administration & Society, 2010), co-authored with David Pitts (American University) and Ignacio Navarro (California State University – Monterey Bay).

There are, in general, two types of school punishments, Roch explained. “One type is going to be better for students: in-school suspension (ISS) and alternative schools. With these types, students keep on learning. With the second type, out-of-school suspension (OSS) for a year or expulsion, students are removed from the school’s environment. This may be detrimental to the student in the long run.”

In making the disciplinary decision, racial match matters, Roch found, especially between teachers and students. “Teachers see students of a different race as more troublesome.” With a weaker match, students received “stigmatizing sanctions,” such as OSS or expulsion; with a stronger match, schools more often give ISS, rehabilitative discipline more likely to support continued student learning and capacity building.

Roch also suggested that the choice of disciplinary tools can have far-reaching consequences beyond failure to complete high school, because it affects experiences students may have later: “A larger cycle occurs,” she said. “Students who received negative disciplinary actions don’t look at government positively, don’t vote, and don’t become involved. The idea is that if you expel students, larger detrimental effects will affect future relationships these students will have with the government.

“A weaker match is particularly detrimental to minority students; minority non-involvement in government then leads to a non-representative government, one that does not make policy that benefits minority populations, which will likely lower the overall quality of democratic governance and reinforce persistent negative constructions of some target populations,” she said. “Everyone suffers.”

Roch recommended specific actions in this article to help mitigate the detrimental effects of weaker matches on minority students: “Use OSS and expulsions as little as possible so we are not harming specific groups based on our social stereotypes. Make teachers aware that they have these biases sometimes; train them to be aware and step back a little when they are making decisions about students and to question themselves as to whether race is playing a role in their assessment of these students.”

She then wrote a follow-up article, “Differing Effects of Representative Bureaucracy in Charter Schools and Traditional Public Schools,” published in The American Review of Public Administration (2012), that grew out of the first article. She found weaker effects for race match in charter schools. “The social construction of students might be based less on race and ethnicity and more on the values inherent in the school,” she says. “The school mission, not race, is the student’s identity. The idea is that everyone is on the same team.”

Roch sees room for future studies on the broader effects of the social environment. “For example,” she says, “if there is a lot of contact between racial groups, would people’s stereotypes lessen? You would think so. Whether or not you have a teacher who matches you racially might not be as big a deal.”

Find these articles at: http://arp.sagepub.com/content/42/3/282.full.pdf+html and http://aas.sagepub.com/content/42/1/38.

ESPLOSTs. In Georgia, for example, the top 10 percent of districts studied raised $9,505 per student more than the bottom 10 percent. These distributional issues are primarily a function of the sales tax base and are not associated with enrollment growth, median family income (i.e., poverty), or percentage of minority students.

The report then discusses important issues to consider if the state’s elected officials were to allow school districts to use ESPLOSTs for operating funds. For the average school district, ESPLOST revenues could cover up to 21 percent of operating funds.

“School districts do continue to report substantial facility needs, particularly in the area of renovations and maintenance,” says Brunner; “so the shift to operations would represent a trade-off between competing priorities. Additionally, the state would need to consider how ESPLOSTs may increase disparity in school district funding across the state.”


ESPLOST Referenda Results by Election Year Status

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ELECTION YEAR STATUS</th>
<th>COUNT</th>
<th>PASS RATE</th>
<th>YES VOTE PERCENTAGE</th>
<th>TURNOUT PERCENTAGE</th>
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<td>69</td>
<td>92.5%</td>
<td>64.1%</td>
<td>40.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Not Held During a General Election or Primary</td>
<td>493</td>
<td>94.5%</td>
<td>68.6%</td>
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Does Universal Coverage Improve Health?

The Massachusetts Experience Suggests It Does

**UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE COVERAGE** for all Americans can lead to improved health according to new research by Department of Economics Assistant Professor Charles Courtemanche and Georgia Health Policy Center Research Associate Daniela Zapata. 

Courtemanche says that, relative to the rest of the United States, Massachusetts has a lower uninsured rate and fewer fiscal problems. In looking at the success of the Massachusetts model, the authors conclude that the health effects of this reform were strongest among women, minorities, near-elderly adults and those with low incomes, many of whom were either uninsured or had pre-existing conditions.

In their working paper, “Does Universal Coverage Improve Health? The Massachusetts Experience,” Courtemanche and Zapata find that Massachusetts’ health care reform led to better overall self-assessed health with improvements in physical health, mental health, functional limitations, joint disorders and body mass index.

The Massachusetts model, comprised of insurance market reforms, mandates, subsidies and Medicaid expansions, made a concerted effort to ensure health care insurance for those with pre-existing conditions, those too poor to afford health care and those who willingly take risks, like young adults.

Massachusetts law mandates that adults be covered by health insurance and employers provide health insurance. Since 2007, residents without adequate coverage face a penalty. Employers with more than 10 employees must make a “fair and reasonable” contribution toward an employer health insurance plan or pay a state assessment.

Beginning in 2014, the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) mandates that businesses with 50 or more employees that don’t provide health care insurance will face penalties.

The Massachusetts reform also provides subsidies and Medicaid expansions that help low- and middle-income households comply with the mandate. Massachusetts and the ACA share similar models where health insurance is mandated to be free for children and families in poverty.

Courtemanche says that, relative to the rest of the United States, Massachusetts has a lower uninsured rate and fewer fiscal problems. “When universal coverage was introduced in 2006, Massachusetts’ uninsured rate was 10 percent, and half of the reform was financed by the federal government,” he says. “By 2010, Massachusetts’ uninsured rate had been reduced to two percent. Nationally, the uninsured rate is 18 percent, with the goal of reducing it to five percent in 10 years.”

To read the working paper, go to http://www.nber.org/papers/w17893.
Education spending in Georgia has declined about 12 percent from 2002 to 2011, at an average of nearly $1,200 per student according to Assistant Dean Cynthia Searcy, an education policy expert. This reduction resulted from a 25.1 percent real decline in state revenues and a 6.2 percent reduction in local revenues, which were partially offset by an increase in federal revenue during the same period.

Nearly 88 percent of the state’s school districts collected less revenue per pupil (adjusted for inflation) in 2011 than in 2002. Median annual declines in state aid to school districts of 4.7 percent from 2007 to 2011 compounded the declines from the 2001 recession.

In “Impact of the Recession on School Revenues across the State” (FRC Report No. 251), Searcy examines the changes in revenue sources for Georgia school districts from 2002 to 2011 and how individual districts responded. She also explores whether and how the changes in per-pupil revenues and district responses vary by level of student poverty, minority status, location and changes in property values.

“The underlying factor driving total per-pupil revenue reductions was a district’s ability to raise local revenue in the face of state reductions,” she says. “Districts with the steepest declines in local property values have experienced larger reductions in per-pupil revenues as a result of constrained options for increasing local revenues.”

Searcy notes that federal per-pupil revenues increased each recession in a pattern that aided districts with high proportions of students in poverty with larger funding increases compared to those districts with fewer students in poverty. However, the size of the federal share is so small – despite federal per-pupil revenues growing by 77.6 percent over this period, that it was not enough to offset total per-pupil reductions.

Download the report at http://aysps.gsu.edu/frc/7460.
Tax abatements, financial incentives and public investments are the primary economic development tools many local governments use to lure “million dollar plants” to a community. Yet, do these incentives provide a win-win situation for the plant and the community? Do the benefits outweigh the costs associated with recruiting and servicing the company and its employees?

“Million dollar plants are not the economic development magic bullet that state and local officials think they are,” says Assistant Professor of Economics Carlianne Patrick. “There is little evidence that successful attraction of a million dollar plant actually induces the desirable economic development outcomes such as employment growth, new economic activity and fiscal surplus for the average local community.”

Patrick makes her case in her working paper, “Identifying the Local Economic Development Effects of Million Dollar Facilities,” based on firms that relocated and/or built new facilities between 1982 and 1993, predominantly in the Southeast.

“Firms like BMW and Mercedes relocated to the Southeast because there was less union presence and labor was cheaper,” says Patrick. “Plus, the South was a good place for both export and domestic markets.”

Many local governments believe offering new firms incentives automatically brings positive spillovers such as more jobs, better public services and lower taxes.

“Existing firms benefit from enhanced productivity when new firms come into an area,” she says. “This was the case for existing firms in the Greenville, S.C., area when BMW built a new manufacturing plant there in 1992. However, the firm and any new economic activity induced by productivity spillovers do not appear to generate more local government revenue than expenditures like the cost of incentives, cost of servicing the facility and its employees, housing and education.

“A lot of local governments initially believe all growth is good growth and offer a lot of incentives to recruit million dollar plants,” she continues. “They do not plan appropriately. They need to think through the overall costs and benefits for facilities, employee salaries and relocation, as well as a community’s infrastructure such as housing, education and public services.”

Georgia is restricted in the types of incentives it provides. Before making an incentive offer, the state assesses the company’s overall effects.

“Georgia uses a fiscal impact model to analyze a potential firm’s effect on public services, its continued funding of local development activities, and the cost of servicing employees and dealing with in-migrants,” says Patrick, who has professional as well as academic knowledge of this topic. Prior to joining the AYSPS, she was vice president for research for a public-private economic development organization in Carroll County, Ga.

“New firms should generate productivity spillovers that induce new economic activity and fiscal surplus,” says Patrick. “A net local government finance gain is then distributed through lower taxes and/or better public services, which attracts new economic activity and more economic development.

“There is no evidence that this activity is happening for the average ‘winning’ county in my sample,” she continues. “Overall, we’re just not seeing the employee growth, fiscal surplus and lower tax rates as a result of these incentives.

“We will continue to have sluggish job growth, and there will be more pressure on state and local government officials to create different strategies for economic development.”

Download a preliminary draft of the report at http://goo.gl/H5mVH.
INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE:
College Students’ Views and the Future

Millions of women suffer from abuse by an intimate partner every year. Some find strength to leave their abuser, but others experience many barriers when attempting to escape their violent relationships. Past research suggests that how society responds to domestic violence incidents is related to the way individuals view the victims; however, not much has been done to examine views on those victims who remain with their abuser.

In “The Blameworthy Victim: Domestic Violence Myths & the Criminalization of Victimhood,” forthcoming in the Journal of Aggression, Maltreatment & Trauma, alumna Christina Policastro (Ph.D. in Criminal Justice and Criminology) and Professor Brian K. Payne reveal college students’ attitudes toward abused women. They examine whether students support common myths about abuse and if they view victims as blameworthy.

Some people believe domestic violence myths – the misconceptions and false beliefs about intimate partner violence – such as the idea that domestic violence only includes physical abuse or that it is easy for victims to flee these unhealthy relationships. Policastro, who co-authored the report while a doctoral student, and Payne find that most people disagreed with domestic violence myths and did not approve of the punishment of victims.

Those who believed these myths support advocacy efforts for increased criminal justice penalties, implying that myths do, indeed, place criminal labels on victims.

According to the study, four in 10 respondents believed that children should be taken away from mothers who remain in violent relationships. One in five believed that women who are abused in front of their children should be criminally prosecuted for exposing them to violence.

“I was most surprised to learn that a moderate portion of the sample was in favor of holding mothers accountable criminally for exposing their children to domestic abuse rather than escaping the violent setting,” says Policastro.

The authors use the term “mythical cycle of violence” to illustrate how domestic violence myths may indirectly contribute to violence. Generally, these myths encourage criminal labels which in turn limit effective services and responses, and may ultimately promote continued victimization.

They suggest that addressing effective strategies to reduce myth promotion – the level at which a person believes these myths – among criminal justice professionals will help position them to break this cycle of violence.

“Policies, such as reviewing domestic violence strategies to ensure they are based on accurate information, can reduce misconceptions about intimate partner violence,” says Payne. “The goal should be to prevent policies from turning victims into offenders by placing criminal labels on them, and instead creating the services and resources that will help them.”

He and Policastro also propose administering courses on violence against women in colleges and universities. Their research reveals that exposure to victim experiences through such programs can change attitudes and force students to challenge their own biases.

Policastro and Payne recommend using advocacy methods to dispel myths and effectively educate the public on domestic violence to reduce any false impressions. A key strategy is training human services professionals on proper knowledge and effective responses to the issue.

“Although implementing mandatory training policies is not the sole solution to reducing domestic violence incidents, accurate understanding about domestic violence is needed for criminal justice professionals to effectively serve victims,” says Payne.
Erdal T ekin, Timothy Brezina and Gabriel Kuperminc (Georgia State) were awarded a three-year, $466,673 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice’s Office of Justice Programs for a project titled “Future Selves, Motivational Capital, and Mentoring Towards College: Assessing the Impact of an Enhanced Mentoring Program for At-Risk Youth.”

Josh Hinkle and Volkan Topalli are co-principal investigators with Elizabeth Griffiths (Rutgers) and Kay Levine (Emory) on a three-year, $390,000 grant from the National Science Foundation titled “Race, Place and Discretion in the Handling of Drug-Free Zone Charges.”

Volkan Topalli was appointed associate editor of Bibliographies in Criminology (Oxford University Press).


Carlianne Patrick was awarded the Regional Science Association International’s 2012 Dissertation Prize for her research, “Essays in Economic Growth and Development Policy.”

Felix Rioja was appointed to the editorial board of the Journal of Financial Economic Policy (Emerald).

Paula Stephan was appointed to the Board of Reviewing Editors of Science (AAAS).

Erdal T ekin and Janet Currie (Princeton) were awarded a National Institutes of Health R21 grant of $221,181 to study the health consequences of the foreclosure crisis. He and colleagues Marie Louise Schultz-Nielsen and Jane Greve (Rockwool Foundation) were awarded approximately $108,000 from the Danish Council for Independent Research for “Ramadan Exposure in Utero and Health and Socio-economic Outcomes of Muslim Immigrants in Denmark: An Analysis of Fetal Origins Hypothesis.”

Cathy Liu was awarded a Regional Studies Association Early Career Grant of $15,690 for “The Geographic Location and Mobility of ImmigrantEntrepreneurs in the U.S.” and is co-principal investigator on a joint project title “Immigrant Entrepreneurship and Agglomeration in High-Tech Industries in the U.S.” and funded with a $50,000 grant from the Kauffman Foundation.

John Clayton Thomas was appointed to the editorial board of Public Administration Review (Wiley).

Bill Waugh was appointed to the editorial board of Administration & Society (Sage).

Brad Wright was named editor of the Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory (Oxford University Press).


Presentations

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

Volkan Topalli gave an invited address titled “Deterring the Athletes from Doping: A Criminological Perspective on Risk-Sensitivity, Deterrability and Informal Sanctions” to the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency at its annual research conference co-sponsored by the World Anti-Doping Agency and the U.S. Olympic Committee in Atlanta in October.

Barbara Warner, Kristin Swartz (University of Louisville) and Shila Hawk-Tourtelot (Ph.D. student) presented “Racial Homophily in Social Networks and Informal Social Control” at the American Society of Criminology meetings in Chicago in November.

SOCIAL WORK


RESEARCH CENTERS


Paul Ferraro organized a symposium titled “The Causal Effects and Mechanisms of Protected Areas on Poverty” and presented “Causal Mechanisms of Protected Areas on Poverty” at the Society for Conservation Biology Meetings in Oakland, Calif., in July.

Carlianne Patrick presented “What do Million Dollar Facilities Really Do?” at the 2012 annual meetings of the North American Regional Facilities Science Association in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, in November. She was also an invited discussant in the Journal of Regional Science Special Session.

Paula Stephan presented “The Impact of Federal R&D” at the Office of Management and Budget in Washington, D.C., in September. She also presented “How Economics Shapes Science” as keynote speaker at the Health Research Alliance’s fall meeting in Bethesda, Md., that month.

PUBLIC MANAGEMENT AND POLICY

Carolyn Bourdeaux presented “A Briefing on Georgia’s Budget and TABOR” to the Georgia Chapter of the AARP and “A Briefing on Georgia’s Budget” to the Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education in Atlanta.

Dennis Young and Jesse Lecy presented “Defining the Universe of Social Enterprise: Competing Metaphors” to the New York University-Stern Conference on Social Entrepreneurship in New York City in November.

SOCIAL WORK

Fred Brooks presented “Analyzing ACORN Through a Real Utopia Lens” at the American Sociological Association 107th Annual Meeting in Denver in August.


Terri Lewinson presented “Supporting Undergraduate Research Through University/Community Partnership” with B.S.W. student Jamie Redding at the National Association of Social Work Annual Conference in Atlanta in October.

Karen Watkins presented “Evidence-Based Psychosocial Treatment With Older Adults Who Have Diabetes” at the Atlanta Regional Geriatric Education Center Initiative Continuing Education session on Older Adults with Diabetes in August.

continued on page 22
in September. He is joined in the above photo by Cosmin Goian (left), West University’s Social Work department chair, and Aledandru Neagoe, deputy dean, Faculty of Sociology and Psychology (right).

Cathy Liu (PMAP) presented “From Cities to Suburbs: The Intrametropolitan Location and Growth of Ethnic Enterprises,” co-authored with alumnus Samir Abdullahi (M.P.P. ’11) at the Race, Ethnicity, and Place VI conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in October.

Jamia Luckett (CJ&C) was awarded a Staff Scholarship fall semester 2012. She joined the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology earlier last year.

On the Go

Mathieu Arp (OAA) has been promoted to assistant director of graduate admission and program administration.

Paul Ferraro (Econ) was the keynote speaker at the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research’s “Science Week” at the World Agroforestry Centre in Nairobi, Kenya, in September.

Robert Friedmann (GILEE) was invited to participate in “Seminar 15” of the U.S. Army War College’s four-day Commandant’s National Security Program for 355 high-ranking officers in Camp Hill, Penn., in July 2012. In September he chaired the session, “The Challenges of Illegal Immigration for Law Enforcement,” at the 12th World Summit on Counter Terrorism, ICT-Herzliya, in Israel.

Jan Ligon (SSW) was a plenary speaker for an international family conference at West University in Timișoara, Romania.

RESEARCH CENTERS

Glenn Landers (GHPC) presented “On the Effects of Aging: Dual Eligible Medicaid and Medicare Senior Issues, the Federal Budget and Health Care Issues” before the 2012 Senate Aging Study Committee in Atlanta in October.

James E. Dills (GHPC) presented “Public Health Institutes: Building National Capacity for Health Impact Assessment” and Glenn Landers presented “Are Money Follows the Person Program Participants Better Off? A Pre-Post-Analysis of Quality of Life” at the American Public Health Association’s Annual Meeting in San Francisco in October.

Susan McLaren (GHPC) presented the poster, “Medical Legal Partnerships: How Evaluation Makes the Case for Collaboration” at the American Evaluation Association’s Annual Conference in Minneapolis in October.

New Career Services Staff Expands the School’s Reach

Catherine Johansson joined the Career Services & Student Life office this fall as a career and employer relations specialist, a new position created to serve more Andrew Young School students.

The office offers resources to students and alumni that help them develop career and leadership skills. Johansson’s position is two-fold; she works externally with potential employers and internally with students and alumni seeking guidance.

On the employer side, Johansson is working to develop relationships the AYSPS already has with many employers and engage them more fully. “That means getting them more involved in panels, career fairs and doing informational interviews,” she explains.

She notes that while the school has numerous relationships with public and nonprofit organizations, more new connections can be made. In addition, she is forging stronger connections with the business community. “One of our biggest needs is private employers; my goal is to reach out and communicate with them better so students will have a larger scope of opportunity,” she says.

The new position allows the Career Services office to be more proactive.
Jamia Luckett

as an administrative specialist after holding positions in Georgia State’s Office of Registration and Compliance and the Department of Applied Linguistics & ESL. Luckett holds a B.A in Journalism from the University of Georgia.

Vjollca Sadiraj (ECON) presented “Paradoxes and Mechanisms for Choice under Risk’” at the 74th International Atlantic Economic Conference in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, in October.

David Sjoquist (ECON) wrote the preface for A Primer on Property Tax: Administration and Policy (Wiley-Blackwell) edited by William McClusky, Gary Gornia and Lawrence Walters.

Erdal Tekin (ECON) gave the keynote speech, “Efficiency and Equity Challenges in Public Child Care Provision,” at the Inter-American Conference on Social Security organized by The World Bank and the Universidad IberoAmericana in Mexico City in November.

John Clayton Thomas (PMAP) delivered invited presentations titled “Citizen, Customer, Partner: Re-Thinking the Relationship Between the Public and Public Management” at the City University of Hong Kong and the 5th International Conference on Public Management in the 21st Century: Opportunities and Challenges in Macau in October.

Maggie Tolan (Dean’s Office) was recently elected to sit on the board for Camp Fire Georgia.

Sally Wallace (ECON) presented “Parental Incarceration and Child Food Security” at the University of Venice, Ca’Foscari on November 19 in Venice. She and Susan Laury traveled to Venice to conduct tax compliance experiments with Michele Bemasconi of Ca’Foscari.

in placing students in internships. Johansson, while managing employer relations, is able to develop and post more internship opportunities.

On the career side, Johansson provides students more one-on-one career guidance in areas like resume and cover letter reviews and career search support. She also leads workshops and special events that the office regularly offers.

Johansson came to the AYPS from the Georgia Aquarium, where she launched an internship program and managed more than 1,700 volunteers. She also led professional development at Zoo Atlanta. She holds a B.A. in Sociology and a master’s degree in teaching, both from the University of Virginia.

“Our students and alumni enjoy an incredibly effective and personalized career services office led by Maggie Tolan,” says graduate student Kate Van Camp (M.P.A.). “Since Dr. Tolan created the center, it has continually expanded its services and resources. Now she can spend more time engaging potential employers and networking to continue expanding the school’s reach.”

The goal for the office is to make employers aware of Andrew Young students and the exceptional qualities they have to offer. AYPS students round out the staff, gaining experience while aiding their peers.

“The idea is, when people need someone as an intern or have a job posting, they will think of Georgia State and the Andrew Young School, specifically,” says Tolan.

John Clayton Thomas (PMAP) delivered invited presentations titled “Citizen, Customer, Partner: Re-Thinking the Relationship Between the Public and Public Management” at the City University of Hong Kong and the 5th International Conference on Public Management in the 21st Century: Opportunities and Challenges in Macau in October.

Dennis Young (PMAP) chaired several panels and delivered two papers at the 10th International Conference of the International Society for Third Sector Research in Siena, Italy, and served as faculty at the 3rd EMES International Ph.D. Summer School in Trento, Italy, in July 2012. In June 2012 he was a visiting faculty member at the IAE Paris Sorbonne Graduate Business School.

GILEE co-sponsored the fourth annual Law Enforcement and Business Continuity Summit in Atlanta in September. About 200 participants including corporate security, corporate counsels, law enforcement, homeland security and public safety officials heard presentations on cybercrime and cyberterrorism issues and participated in a simulated live attack scenario in three different breakout sessions facilitated by six national experts.

Additionally, GILEE hosted its 16th delegation of police leaders from Israel at its annual, intensive two-week anti-terrorism peer training program in Georgia in October. The 15-member delegation participated in site visits and professional public safety briefings at more than a dozen state and local police departments and public safety agencies, visited Lockheed Martin to view the C-130 and was welcomed by several mayors and other elected officials. Several media posted the visit, including the story, “Officer Offering Advice,” on WSB Channel 2 Action News.
After the School of Social Work and the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology joined the school, the OAA brought in two new undergraduate advisors, Danielle Churchill and Sandra Williams, in February 2012. Charisma Parker, a graduate admissions coordinator; Michelle Lacoss, an administrative specialist-curriculum; and Jacqueline Pearce, a customer service specialist, have also joined the office.

The National Academic Advising Association recommends a student-to-advisor ratio of 300:1. With the OAA’s expansion, its ratio is now approximately 350:1, which OAA Director Shelly-Ann Williams considers much improved from its previous 700:1 ratio. “Our advisors now have more time to better manage their student population and provide significantly more assistance than was previously available,” she says.

Churchill is familiar with the AYSPS as an advisor and a student. After receiving her B.A. in English from Georgia State University in 2007, she spent five years working in the university’s admissions and recruitment departments. She recently began pursuing a Master of Public Administration degree with a concentration in nonprofit management.

Sandra Williams, who has worked as an academic advisor in higher education since 2007, says her “passion is to help others gain success in life by creating positive and strong inner thinking.” She holds a bachelor’s degree in psychology from Clayton State University, a master’s degree in psychology from the University of Phoenix and is working toward an M.A. in Community Counseling from Argosy University.

Parker worked as an enrollment services assistant in Georgia State’s undergraduate admissions office until she joined AYSPS. She manages incoming graduate program applications throughout the admissions process. “I make sure candidates have their applications completed and help them prepare for enrollment once admitted,” she says.

“We are very excited to have everyone on board,” says Director Williams.

“I’m very excited about the recent growth of our office,” she continues. “It allows us to be more creative and more engaged with students and outreach.” Williams’ team can now provide more proactive advising to ensure students are on track. “When the advisor-to-student ratio was much higher, there was no way for a counselor to check on students before they started falling off track. Now, it’s not just about managing a huge student population. Advisors are able to intervene early and contact students before they reach out for help.”

In addition to its personnel expansion, the university has invested in new advisement software to better aid counselors in evaluating students’ progress. They use these programs to look at markers that assess such progress. The office also plans to introduce new workshops and programs – such as test preparation programs and time management – and more in-depth study abroad counseling.

“I want the OAA to be a place students want to come, not just a place they have to come to when they’re in trouble. This office has never been about quantity advisement – it’s about quality – and now we’re going to be able to do that even better,” she says.

Visit the OAA website at http://ayspgsu.edu/oaa.
Georgia State Expands University Advisement Center

The University Advisement Center has moved to 25 Park Place in the former SunTrust Bank building.

The new center, holding more than 60 academic advisors who represent every Georgia State college and undergraduate major, represents a structural change in academic advisement and expands the resources available to undergraduate students. Advisors use a cutting-edge, web-based advising system to track academic progress and indicate when interventions may be necessary, with the goal of steering more students to successful completion of their degrees.

Four advisors serve Andrew Young School undergraduates at the new center:

- Michael Charlton – freshmen
- Berkley Arakawa – sophomores up to 42 hours
- Qua-Aisa Blackman – sophomores and juniors with more than 42 hours
- Fritz Kroncke – sophomores and juniors with more than 42 hours

For more information on how to seek academic assistance and how this critical service works to assist students in completing their degrees, go to http://advisement.gsu.edu/.

ELPNO Assembles Nonprofit Executives for Leadership Training

Eighteen nonprofit organization leaders from throughout the Southeast participated in the sixth annual Executive Leadership Program for Nonprofit Organizations (ELPNO) in June 2012. This annual joint training effort, organized by the Andrew Young School’s Nonprofit Studies Program, University of Georgia’s Fanning Institute and Georgia Tech’s Institute for Leadership and Entrepreneurship, provides participants the skills needed to manage their organizations during difficult economic times.

The 2013 training was held June 9-14. Go to www.elpno.org/.

Nonprofit Sector Expert Keynotes Annual Forum

Lester Salamon, who pioneered the empirical study of the nonprofit sector in the United States, presented “The State of Nonprofit America” at the Andrew Young School’s Nonprofit Issues Forum last fall.

Salamon, a professor at The Johns Hopkins University and director of the Johns Hopkins Center for Civil Society, suggested that America’s nonprofit organizations are caught in a force field buffeted by voluntarism, professionalism, civic activism and commercialism. He suggested that understanding this force field and recognizing the factors shaping its dynamics are central to understanding the future of specific organizations and the nonprofit sector as a whole.

Panelists Alicia Philipp of The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta, Inc., Dave McMurty of Habitat for Humanity International and Joe A. Arnold of SunTrust responded to the issues he raised in his presentation.

Salamon has written more than 20 books on the topic, two in their second and third editions: The State of Nonprofit America (Brookings, 2012) and America’s Nonprofit Sector: A Primer (The Foundation Center, 2012).

The forum was sponsored by The Foundation Center-Atlanta, Georgia Humanities Council, Southeastern Council of Foundations, United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta, Woodruff Arts Center, Alston & Bird, LLP and the Andrew Young School.

Andrew Young School of Policy Studies
AYSPS Welcomes New Georgia Health Policy Center Staff

**David Bolt** is a research associate I and a member of the Center of Excellence in Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health team, also known as COE. He joined the center from the Multi-Agency Alliance for Children, where he worked as a care coordinator. Bolt holds an M.S.W. with a concentration in community partnerships from Georgia State University and a B.S.W. with a minor in Sociology from the University of Georgia.

**Robyn Bussey**, a research associate II, comes to the center from Platt Health Management Consulting, Inc., where she worked as a senior consultant on various health planning, research and regulatory projects. She holds a bachelor’s degree from Florida A&M University and an M.B.A. and Master of Health Administration from Georgia State University.

**Jimmy Dills** is a research associate II. He comes to the center from Nashville, where he was the health impact assessment coordinator for the Metro Public Health Department. Earlier he worked in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity. Dills holds an M.P.H. and a B.S. from Emory University and a Master in Urban Planning from the University of Louisville.

**Sacha Gayle** joined the staff as administrative assistant. She supports the senior administrative coordinator by working closely with student assistants and providing support to meeting logistics and special projects. Gayle holds a Bachelor of Business Administration with a concentration in marketing from Georgia State University.

**Cina Hartage** joined the center as an administrative assistant. She provides administrative support for the Center of Excellence and assists in meeting and event logistics. Hartage worked in several departments at Georgia State before joining the COE.

**Libby Kauss** joined as a research associate I. She works closely with the COE and the Money Follows the Person program. Kauss comes to the GHPC from the Georgia Governor’s Office. She holds an M.S.W. from Georgia State University.

**Mohammad Khalaf** joined the GHPC after serving as a program manager for the Child Education and Wellbeing Project in the Palestinian Territories. His work focuses on chronic disease prevention, cancer and health equity strategic planning, community health needs assessment and health workforce analysis. He holds an M.P.H. from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and a B.S. in Biology from Guilford College.

**Astrid Prudent** joined the Center of Excellence team as the COE master trainer/coach for High Fidelity Wraparound implementation. She joins the GHPC with experience as a Wraparound supervisor and care coordinator. Prudent holds a Master of Community Counseling from Argosy University and a B.A. in Psychology from the University of Central Florida.

**Michelle Rushing**, a research associate II, conducts Health Impact Assessment projects, training and technical assistance and prepares research on links between the built environment and human health, work she did previously for the Georgia Department of Public Health, city and regional planners, and local public health districts. She holds an M.P.H. from Georgia State University and a B.A. in Anthropology from Cornell.

**Cynthia Williams** joined the COE team as a research associate II. She comes from the Public Citizen’s Health Research Group, where she served as managing editor. Williams’ work focuses on data analysis, data-driven quality improvement methods and report writing. She holds an M.P.A. with a concentration in Program Evaluation and Policy Analysis from Georgia State University and a B.A. in English from Loyola University.

**Daniela Zapata**, a research associate II, focuses her work on data analysis for children and adults with behavioral health needs. She also supports the development of data-based quality improvement processes. Zapata holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNCG) and an M.S. in Economics from Universidad de Chile and UNCG.
Stephan Addresses the National Postdoctoral Association 2013 Annual Meeting

Professor Paula Stephan delivered the keynote address at the 11th Annual Meeting of the National Postdoctoral Association (NPA) in Charleston in March. Stephan’s speech emphasized how to enhance the current state of the postdoctoral experience and how to make efficient use of training resources.

The NPA, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the postdoctoral experience, addresses national issues that confront the postdoctoral community. Policies proposed by the organization are being considered and adopted by federal agencies and research institutions throughout the United States.

Andrew “Andy” Foster (B.S. in Public Policy) was named executive officer of the California State Athletic Commission in Los Angeles in October. Prior to joining the commission, Foster was executive director of the Georgia Athletic and Entertainment Commission and also regional director of the Southeastern United States for the Association of Boxing Commissions.

Glen Ishoy (Ph.D. in Criminal Justice & Criminology) received a 2012 Clendenin Fellowship from Kennesaw State University. A Cobb County police officer, Ishoy holds an M.A. in Criminology from the University of West Georgia, where he was inducted into the National Criminological Honor Society in 2011.

Bhayu Purnomo (M.A. in Economics) and Mark Rider presented their paper, “Domestic and Foreign Shocks from the Indonesian Stock Market: Time Series Evidence,” at the Sixth Southeastern International Development Economics Conference at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta in December.

AYPS Hosts KEI Event

The Economic Institute (KEI) held a university-wide event titled “U.S. Foreign Policy Towards Asia in a Time of Transition” in October. A record 80 students participated in the event’s Six Party Talk Simulation, representing delegates from the United States, South Korea, North Korea, Japan, China and Russia working together on solving challenges in the region. Panel speakers Abraham M. Denmark from the National Bureau of Asian Research, Anthony Kim from the Heritage Foundation and Nicholas Hemisgicz from the Korea Economic Institute also spoke to the students about U.S. foreign policy, and how to build careers. The event was coordinated by Grace O, a clinical assistant professor in economics.


Erdal Tekin presented “Stand Your Ground Laws and Homicides,” co-authored with Chandler McClellan (Ph.D. in Economics) at the Economics of Crime Workshop organized by the School of Economics at Erasmus University, The Netherlands, in October.


Cathy Liu & Wen Xie (M.P.P). Creativity and Inequality: The Dual Path of China’s Urban Economy? Growth and Change, forthcoming. (NOTE: Xie is now a doctoral student at the University of Chicago.)

Shila Hawk-Tourtelot (Ph.D. in Criminal Justice & Criminology) is the project manager for the Atlanta Police Department ATLAS Project.
Taking his interest in policy across the pond, student Tim Cairl (M.P.P.) spent last spring in Paris as an intern with the Economic Section of the United States Embassy.

Cairl, whose degree concentration is in planning and economic development, says he is extremely interested in the public sector and foreign service in particular. Approximately five months after he applied for an internship with the State Department, he landed the foreign post-eligible position.

An excited Cairl arrived in Paris on March 17 and went to work two days later. The Embassy is at Place de la Concorde – situated picturesquely between the Tuileries Garden of the Louvre and the famed Avenue des Champs-Élysées. From day one, says Cairl, the staff made him feel welcomed and assigned him important projects.

“They patiently taught me new things,” says Cairl. He conducted research on French legislation regarding data privacy and wrote cables on a variety of topics including the Euro crisis and advances in French technology. He says that some of his greatest experiences, however, occurred outside of his assignments.

“In addition to the excellent quality and amount of work I was given, the embassy offered a variety of networking opportunities. Interns are also encouraged to attend the multitude of lectures, presentations and conferences that Paris has to offer,” he says.

Cairl attended lectures at several Paris universities and corporate-based lectures with World Bank. “At these lectures, I was able to present myself on behalf of the embassy and talk to the lecturers as well as attendees from other organizations such as European Parliament, the Assembly National and the Organization for Economic Cooperation & Development (OECD).

Back in Atlanta and in his final semester at Georgia State University, Cairl is an intern with the UPS Foundation. He was recently honored by the Andrew Young School as “Graduate Intern of the Year” for his internship with the State Department in addition to receiving the UPS Foundation Fellowship.

Upon graduation, Cairl hopes to have a job lined up with the State Department. He will take the Foreign Service exam this semester to get closer to his dream job as an analyst in city planning or transportation policy.

“I am exceptionally proud of the quality and amount of work I completed at the embassy, and I have been fortunate enough to make great friends and colleagues who I hope to continue communicating with throughout my professional career,” Cairl says.

For more information on internships with the U.S. Department of State, visit: http://careers.state.gov/students#.UUEpP1fkdWI. Or contact the Office of Career Services & Student Life at 404-413-0069.

Expert Panel Addresses Sex Trafficking

The Office of Career Services & Student Life hosted a fall panel discussion, “Human Trafficking – A Look at the Economics, Policies, Enforcement & Victims of the Industry,” to raise awareness about the economics and policies of the sex trafficking industry, particularly in Atlanta.

Featured panelists were Georgia Sen. Renee Unterman (R-Buford); Renea Anderson, a special agent of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation Human Trafficking Unit; Maja Hasic, anti-human trafficking program director for Tapestri, Inc.; and Kaffie McCullough, deputy director of youthSpark.

“The most significant thing we’ve done is educating the public that these children are victims – they are not criminals,” said Unterman about the legislature’s involvement in the issue. As senator, she has created an infrastructure for nonprofits that are educating law enforcement and judges who have biases against prostitution.

Read more at The Signal: http://georgiastatesignal.com/ stopping-sexual-exploitation/.
November, Operation HOPE invited more than 1,000 delegates representing over 30 countries to the HOPE Global Financial Dignity Summit in Atlanta. Joining co-chairs Ambassador Andrew Young and John Hope Bryant and speakers such as Atlanta Federal Reserve Chair Dennis Lockhart, the delegates engaged in global conversations about viable, long-term, systemic and sustainable solutions to economic and life problems as directed by the theme, “Community, Character and Responsible Capitalism.”

The summit marked the 20th anniversary of Operation HOPE and the opening of the new HOPE Financial Dignity Center Atlanta. Federal Reserve Chair Ben Bernanke provided the keynote address. Highlights included a White House Panel on Jobs, a citywide Community Bus Tour; the grand opening of the HOPE Financial Dignity Center and a Global Dignity Forum. Presenters included entrepreneur Russell Simmons, Benjamin Jealous of the NAACP, Bernice King of the King Center, and William Rogers of SunTrust Banks, Inc.

AYSPS Students Aid Operation HOPE Summit

Andrew Young School students Jeremiah Ojo (B. S. in Public Policy) and Clifford Nau (M.P.P) played important roles in setting the stage for the summit.

Ojo, at that time the executive assistant and developmental coordinator at Operation HOPE, served as the liaison between Bryant’s office and the organization’s offices and portfolios around the world. He also served as the volunteer and intern manager for the summit, recruiting approximately 50 volunteers for the day and 20 interns to help make advance preparations. He then served as Bryant’s and Young’s personal assistant during the event.

“My job was to make sure logistics were on point and everything went well, as planned,” recalls Ojo.

Ojo started his career in business and finance and previously worked at SunTrust. He chose to attend the Andrew Young School after becoming more civically involved and meeting professors Harvey Newman and Bruce Seaman. “Dr. Seaman’s presentations on the economics of the arts, entertainment and culture opened my eyes on how these economic engines drive the local community,” he says.

“I chose public policy because I felt and continually feel that this degree program would equip me to become an effective and knowledgeable leader and enable me the social wherewithal to create actionable change throughout the world. I am a social entrepreneur who has taken my background in finance and business and fused my new-found knowledge of the public sector to create opportunities for others,” explains Ojo.

He was also fundamental in establishing the school’s close relationship with Operation HOPE.

Ojo worked with Maggie Tolan, director of graduate career services, to develop the internship program with Operation HOPE, which then hired about 20 interns from Georgia State University, most of whom were AYSPS students and members of the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance (NLA).

“Dr. Tolan talked to me about developing a program centered on developing specific skills that can be translated from the...
classroom to an internship or real work experience," says Ojo. The intern program was a structured five-week project extended to those individuals who wanted to learn how to create, operationalize and execute community engagement projects and initiatives. Operation HOPE continues to sponsor interns from the NLA and AYSPS.

Nau’s involvement in Operation HOPE was inspired by a presentation Ojo gave at an NLA meeting. It led to his work with the organization’s Banking on our Future program and then to an internship in project management at Operation HOPE. Nau, who is an economist with Haiti’s Ministry of Economy and Finance, came to the AYSPS as a Fulbright Scholar. During the summit, he served as an assistant to the bus moderator and was the main contact for all VIPs in attendance.

Nau says his experience with Operation HOPE and Ojo will always be important to him. “I’ve learned a lot from Jeremiah. What I get here is humility; the way he’s humble and always supportive. That pushes you to take risks, believe in yourself and reach your goal.”

Ojo thanks all of the interns and student volunteers who helped during the summit. All were stand-outs, he says, including public policy majors Taylor Youn Stanley, Alaina Reeves, Wande Ogunlusi, Gabrielle Arrington, Nabeel Muhammedi, Alexis Butler and Autumn Ashton, and economics majors Sonia Amon-Tanoh and Morgan Sinclair, among others.

By all accounts, the HOPE Global Financial Dignity Summit was a great success. The Andrew Young School has many reasons to be proud of the contributions of its students.

International Scholars Choose the AYSPS

Georgia State University hosted three international scholars at the Andrew Young School this academic year as part of the U.S. Department of State’s Edmund S. Muskie Graduate Fellowship Program: Hovhannes Avetisyan from Armenia, Andrii Kruglashov from the Ukraine and Natalia Tsivadze from Georgia.

The program, established by Congress in 1992 following the dissolution of the Soviet Union, selects emerging leaders from the 12 countries of the former Soviet Union and works to promote mutual understanding, help build democracy and foster healthy economic and democratic growth. To date, it has identified, trained and supported nearly 5,000 talented scholars.

Muskie Fellows develop a deeper understanding of U.S. values and gain skills and knowledge in fields they often cannot study in their home countries. Upon completing the program, Muskie alumni return home to share their understanding of American culture and democratic values and take leadership roles in the nonprofit, private and government sectors. Many maintain lasting relationships with their American universities.

The Muskie program is not Georgia State’s only international scholar program. The Fulbright Program, which this year sponsored two students in the Andrew Young School, is the U.S. government’s flagship international exchange program sponsored by the Department of State.

Georgia State University hosted 32 Fulbright- and Muskie-sponsored students on campus last fall, which is up from 25 in 2011 and 20 in 2010. The students hail from countries such as Syria, Mongolia, Malawi, Kyrgyzstan, Burma, Tunisia, Iraq and Afghanistan.
After 18 months of intensive study in Atlanta, 15 Indonesian graduate students have returned to their home country. Their last order of business before they departed? Picking up their degrees from Georgia State University’s Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at the fall commencement ceremony.

About three-quarters of the students were civil servants on leave from their posts in the Ministry of Finance in Indonesia. The rest came to the program from academia, think tanks and provincial governments. The second wave of 15 Indonesian students arrived on campus in July 2012.

School has developed his critical thinking skills on economic issues, which will make his analyses more meaningful.

A similar short-term international program supporting two cohorts of Indonesian students started at Georgia State in 2002. One graduate of that program, Arti Adji-Kompas, stayed on to complete her doctorate before returning to her home country. She now runs the Indonesian side of the program as director of the economics program at Gadjah Mada. Also in 2002, Sri Mulyani Indrawati, former Indonesia’s minister of finance and now managing director at the World Bank, was an Andrew Young School visiting scholar.

The Andrew Young School has been working on projects in Indonesia for more than a decade with the Ministry of Finance, the World Bank and USAID. The goal of this partnership, according to International Studies Program Director and Regents’ Professor of Economics Jorge Martinez-Vazquez, is to bolster the Indonesian Ministry of Finance with a critical mass of civil servants trained to do fiscal policy analysis.

Economics Department Chair and Professor Sally Wallace has mentored and taught students from both USAID-funded dual-degree programs for Indonesian students and says the model has been a successful one.

“‘There’s something to be gained by bringing a cohort of students that spend all this time together. Indonesia is a big country, and many of these people did not know each other before they got here,” Wallace says. “A lot of those folks are still working together, and they’ve gone on to places like the World Bank. It’s really had an impact on the policy and ability to analyze policy in the country.”

Read more at http://aysps.gsu.edu/isp/2984.html.
Student Wins Prestigious Economics Award

Omicron Delta Epsilon (ODE), the international honor society for economics, announced Yongzheng Liu the winner of its Irving Fisher Article Award for 2011-2012. Liu, now on the faculty of the School of Finance and China Financial Policy Research Center at Renmin University of China in Beijing, was working towards his doctorate in economics at the Andrew Young School when the article was submitted.

The Irving Fisher Article Award is bestowed upon the best article submitted by a graduate student or a recent recipient of a doctorate in economics, according to the ODE website. Liu’s article, “Does Competition for Capital Discipline Governments? The Role of Fiscal Equalization,” was published in *International Tax and Public Finance* in March.

To download the article, go to http://goo.gl/XG9Em.
Workers – Georgia Chapter in December. She came to the NASW from the Georgia Department of Community Health, where she was deputy director of the Medicaid Division. Ivy is also a part-time instructor at the AYSPS.

Larry Lucas (M.P.A. ’00, B.S. in Urban Studies ’97) is the city planner for Auburn, Ga. He writes that two years after obtaining his M.P.A., he retired as senior planner from the City of Atlanta Planning Department and went to East Point, Ga., where he served as planning director from 2002 to 2005. He writes: Although, I had 18 years of experience with the City of Atlanta, the graduate degree complemented this background to allow me to pursue high-level administrative positions.

Catherine Ivy, LCWS (M.S.W.) and chair of the School of Social Work’s Advisory Board, was named executive director of the National Association of Social Workers – Georgia Chapter in December. She came to the NASW from the Georgia Department of Community Health, where she was deputy director of the Medicaid Division. Ivy is also a part-time instructor at the AYSPS.

Stephan Holland (M.P.P. ’12) is community partnerships coordinator, Silver Corps Member, at Hands on Atlanta. As a Silver Corps Member, he completed a 10-month, 1,700 hour service commitment working on volunteer coordination, recruitment and management. Holland_stephan@hotmail.com

The AYSPS would like to share your news, too!
Please complete the alumni survey at aysps.gsu.edu/alumni/survey.
And don’t forget to “Like” us on Facebook!

Alemayehu Muzu (M.A. in Economics ’07), an account and project manager for Ethiopian Airlines, lives in Lilburn, Ga. alexm@ethopianairlines.com

Rebecca Serna (M.S. in Urban Studies ’07), executive director of the Atlanta Bicycle Coalition, was named the Alliance for Biking and Walking’s Advocate of the Year at the 2013 National Bike Summit in Washington, D.C., in March.

Josh Stephens (M.P.P. ’11) is a legislative policy analyst for the Professional Association of Georgia Educators in Atlanta. Jws81087@gmail.com

Monique Thomas (B.S. in Criminal Justice ’12) has joined the Seneca Center in Oakland, Calif., as a support counselor. Mthomas1123@gmail.com

Brandon Tisdale (B.S. in Criminal Justice ’12) received his diploma and GBI Special Agent Credentials upon completing the Special Agent Candidate Course at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center in Forsyth, Ga. He was then assigned to the GBI’s Regional Office in Conyers and is detached to the Social Security Fraud Unit.
Alumnus Jon Thompson (M.S.W. ’02) is director of corporate social responsibility for Guacalito de la Isla, Nicaragua’s largest resort. As such, he oversees the company’s community investments in education, environment, health and culture. In his “spare” time, he runs an alphabet soup of non-profits he has established that include a water filter project, community recycling program, youth sportsplex, organic coffee farm, sustainable tourism program, sustainable building projects and English classes for locals.

“I’m overworked, but I love every second of it,” he says.

Thompson established Comunidad Connect in San Juan del Sur in 2006 as an umbrella organization for his programs Campo Verde, Parque Deportivo and Turismo Sostenible, which generate all revenue necessary to ensuring its financial sustainability.

Nico Agua, the organization’s flagship environmental initiative, flows out of Campo Verde, its original environmental awareness, outreach and recycling program.

“The vast majority of water in Nicaragua is contaminated,” says Thompson. “Most Nicaraguans get their water from shallow wells that offer little filtration, and they are often built close to latrines. Agro chemicals, fertilizers and insecticides seep into the water table, getting into the drinking water.” As a result, people suffer from chronic cases of diarrhea, kidney infections, dehydration and even death.

Nico Agua offers families who complete 16 hours of community service credits towards a Filtron, a low-tech water filter proven to nearly eliminate cases of diarrhea in the rural areas where it has been used. It also conducts three monthly visits and an annual follow-up visit, where families are trained on how to use the filter and improve hygiene.

“About 600 families now benefit from clean water every day,” Thompson says. “It’s not rocket science. It’s just water filters.”

The company is tracking health indicators with the intent to replicate and expand, he says. “If we can keep things simple and show impact, I don’t see why we can’t put water filters in every household in Nicaragua. Nico Agua will change the paradigm in Nicaragua, Central America and beyond.”

Other core programs include Parque Deportivo, a sports park used for promoting youth development, sports, community events and English language courses, and Turismo Sostenible, a sustainable tourism program that partners with universities.

“Hundreds of young tourists have volunteered their time, gaining life-changing experiences,” says Thompson. At Finca Java, a 250-acre organic coffee farm and eco-lodge in the northern mountains of Nicaragua, the tourists learn about organic agriculture, the community, surrounding farms, water filters and intervention projects.

“They work alongside their Nicaraguan hosts, building bus stops and trash cans, painting murals, planting school gardens, learning Spanish and Nicaraguan culture, and teaching everything from English to soccer,” says Thompson.

“Our students learn lessons that veer from the traditional model of supply and demand, loss and profit, to look at social impact and how business affects community, becoming an incubator of innovation,” he says. “The Nicaraguan experience changes students a lot more than it changes the communities where they work.”

Thompson is now working on a new program, Farmers to 40, that will offer quality Nicaraguan coffee to Atlanta consumers while returning 40 percent of the retail price back to the farmers.

“We find we enjoy the work so much that it ceases to become work,” he says. “It becomes a way of life.”

Learn more at www.comunidadconnect.org.
GSU Names Thomas Distinguished Alumna

Professor Harvey Newman, her former teacher, nominated Thomas for the award, describing her as a great credit to her alma mater.

“I’ve known Geri since she was an undergraduate student,” says Newman. “Geri was working at the bank … and an internship requirement fulfilled in the Human Resources Department moved her on the path to becoming director of the bank.

“Her story is typical of so many students at the university, who work their way through school, taking advantage of the network of businesses, government agencies and nonprofit organizations in Atlanta. What set Geri Thomas apart is the single-minded dedication and focus she brought to her studies and her career,” he continues.

Thomas has long been a leader in Atlanta’s public and charitable community. The YWCA of Greater Atlanta inducted Thomas into its Academy of Achievers. She has received the Atlanta Business League’s 2010 Millennium Pacesetter Award and was named one of the 100 most influential Atlantans by the Atlanta Business Chronicle. At Georgia State, she is a member of the board of advisors for the J. Mack Robinson College of Business.

A member of the State of Georgia Personnel Board for more than 14 years, Thomas serves on boards for The Carter Center, the Buckhead Coalition, the Atlanta Committee for Progress, Leadership Atlanta and the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, where she is a member of the executive committee. She is also a trustee of the Woodruff Arts Center and a member of the Executive Leadership Council.

“I was proud to be her professor,” says Newman. “In my classes, Geri showed qualities that made me know she was destined for special accomplishments in life. As I have watched her progress since she graduated, I have continued to take pride in her promotions and in her success.”

AYSPS Congratulates Its 2012/2013 Graduates

Families, friends and faculty of the Andrew Young School’s fall 2012 and spring 2013 graduates filled the Rialto Theater to celebrate their milestones. The featured speaker December 16, 2012, was alumnus Michael Pritchard (B.S. in Criminal Justice), senior vice president of global security for Hunt Consolidated, Inc., and a former agent for the U.S. Secret Service. On May 13, Catherine Ivy, executive director of the National Association of Social Workers-Georgia Chapter, addressed the new graduates and their families at the 2013 Spring Recognition Ceremony.

“There’s a difference between a dream and a fantasy,” said Pritchard, after describing the events surrounding the assassination of President John F. Kennedy that drove him to pursue a college education and fulfill his childhood dream of being a “secret service man.” He eventually protected six United States presidents.

Ivy, also a part-time instructor in the School of Social Work, spoke to the students about their potential and future impact on their communities and the world. “We come to campus with a desire to learn more so we can do more,” she said. “Today, we are not ushering you out, but are launching you out to carry on the Andrew Young School mission. We are optimistic you can transfer your ideas into action.”

“Georgia State University has given you the opportunity to meet your dream,” Pritchard advised the new graduates. “Share your dream, and do not let anyone squash that dream no matter how well-meaning they are.”

To download photos and more, go to http://aysps.gsu.edu/news/ays-celebrates-spring-2013-graduating-class and tap the “Past Ceremonies” tab on the left.
Economist Artidiatun “Arti” Adji and Judge Gale Buckner were named Andrew Young School’s Distinguished Alumni in April 2012. The award was created the prior year to celebrate alumni who exemplify the school’s standards of excellence and have made significant contributions to the academy, the public sector, business or the nonprofit sector and to the larger community.

Congratulations to Our 2012 Distinguished Alumni

Artidiatun “Arti” Adji, Ph.D. ‘06

Upon completing her doctorate from the Andrew Young School, Adji was appointed researcher and international collaboration coordinator for the Center for Economics and Public Policy Studies (CEPPS) at the Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM) in Indonesia, where she served as a lecturer in the Department of Economics at the Faculty of Economics and Business. In 2008, Adji was promoted to vice director of CEPPS, and in 2009 she became vice director for academic and director of the Economics Program and Master of Science Doctorate Program at UGM.

Adji teaches and conducts sponsored research and capacity development activities and has served on several graduate and undergraduate accreditation committees for her department. With these duties, she still manages to keep up a steady pipeline of research in peer-reviewed journals and book chapters, occasionally with AYSPS faculty. She is recognized at her university as a true rainmaker for research funding for the steady stream of externally funded research projects she brings in every year.

A consultant for the World Bank since 2008, Adji also regularly designs and delivers capacity building programs for a wide spectrum of government officials and public organizations in Indonesia.

Adji gives back to the AYSPS by creating and supporting joint capacity building activities and training programs with the International Center for Public Policy. In 2009 and 2012 she brought Papuan and Sumatran local government officials to campus for fiscal decentralization training programs. Also noteworthy is her role in helping the AYSPS secure the $3 million Indonesia Master’s Program with USAID and her leadership of the program at the Universitas Gadjah Mada.

L. Gale Buckner, B.S. ’81

Judge Buckner illustrates the impact that Georgia State University alumni make in their field after graduation. She was recently appointed to lead Georgia’s Murray County Magistrate Court while serving as commissioner of Georgia’s Department of Juvenile Justice. Before joining the commission, she served a seven-year term on the Georgia State Board of Pardons and Paroles.

Buckner has led the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, an agency that manages federal grant money for criminal justice projects in Georgia. She worked almost two decades for the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, where she was the Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the public corruption/fraud squad, the Drug Enforcement Section and the Metro-Atlanta Field Office. Later, she became GBI’s personnel director and ultimately the director of legislative and intergovernmental affairs, where she spearheaded the successful congressional passage of the Paul Coverdell National Forensic Sciences Improvement Act.

Buckner serves on several professional and civic boards and associations, including that of the Andrew Young School’s Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange (GILEE). She is a tireless and effective public servant who has been recognized for her contributions by professional associations.

Buckner began her career as a sergeant in the Chatsworth Police Department, where she was named Officer of the Year in 1979. She holds a B.S. in Urban Life from Georgia State University and an M.P.A. from Brenau University. She also attended the FBI National Academy and was a GILEE delegate to Israel in 2003.
DOWNTOWN’S HIGHEST BUILDINGS are the Hurt, Candler and Healey buildings. Short brick office buildings fill Woodruff Park. Electric trolley tracks run from downtown to the suburbs of Inman Park, Virginia Highland, West End and out to Marietta, and there are no interstates or MARTA rail.

Broad Street and Auburn Avenue are the centers of thriving, yet separate, retail and entertainment districts for the city’s white and black communities. A bustling Union Station spews pedestrians onto Marietta and Peachtree streets. The Great Depression shadows all.

This is the downtown Atlanta freshman Ralph Moor saw 80 years ago while riding the streetcar from his home on Marietta Square to the Georgia Tech Evening School of Commerce.

Moor, like Georgia State, is celebrating his 100th birthday.

Although disinclined to acknowledge it, his intentional journey as a public servant – which found him in the employ of a world-famous general, a powerful Georgia senator, university presidents and several Georgia governors – is a model for students today.

Moor graduated in 1937 with a bachelor of science degree and a major in commerce. "Business courses were my interest, and the Evening School was my only choice," he says during an interview in the well-appointed library of his Buckhead senior living facility, the fire beside his motorized chair crackling and popping.

Working as a secretary at the B. Mifflin Hood Brick Company during the day, he attended classes at night.

President George Sparks, Moor remembers, often walked the halls, greeting students and encouraging them in their studies. “He was interested in where his students came from, and would take us along to assist him on his trips. We’d drive to Board of Regents meetings in Milledgeville or Valdosta or other places, and I’d record the motions.”

Upon graduating, Moor was awarded a graduate scholarship and taught typing, shorthand and commerce courses under Sparks.

Certain by 1939 that he would be drafted into the Army, Moor toured upstate New York and Canada and saw the New York World’s Fair. He says this trip fostered his interest in personnel administration.

Moor was commissioned in 1940 and became a casualty correspondent for the War Department in Washington, D.C., and stationed briefly at General Douglas MacArthur’s Pacific Headquarters in Manila. He later joined the Army Reserves and retired a Brigadier General.

While in D.C., Moor worked towards a Master of Arts in Personnel Administration at George Washington University. “I expected one day to be the state director of personnel,” he says.

A fraternity brother whose twin worked for Sen. Richard Russell helped advance his goal, introducing Moor to the senator. He served as Russell’s executive secretary from 1946 to 1948, earning his degree in 1947.

Moor returned to Georgia at the invitation of South Georgia College’s President Will Smith, another friend from Evening College. Hired as an academic dean, he taught economics and developed a course in personal finance for two years. He then served with the U.S. Office of Education.
Alumnus Ralph Moor (‘37) has spent his last three decades lecturing at Georgia’s high schools and colleges, working to “poverty proof” students by improving their understanding of personal finance. At Georgia State, he established an endowment to further the teaching of personal economics.

“The desperate financial conditions of many people – bankruptcies, crime, homelessness, repossessions – have been matters of much concern to me in recent years,” he told the Georgia State University Foundation. To teach others how to avoid these circumstances, he has helped establish courses in personal economics.

Economics professor Paula Stephan has taught classes in managing credit card debt to more than 3,000 students in Georgia State’s Freshmen Learning Communities. She says the courses supported by Moor have encouraged students to think more carefully about debt.

“We know that debt is one of the biggest reasons students drop out of college,” she says. “We think that in some sense, students who have attended these classes really appreciate how expensive credit card debt can be, and how it can alter their prospects. Mr. Moor’s contributions have helped a lot of students.”

Lisa Cupid (J.D./M.P.A. ’12) was elected to fill the District 4 seat on the Cobb County Commission in November. Her win makes her the only democrat serving Cobb and created a female majority on the commission.

Cupid, who won her primary with a 76 percent majority vote, says the time was right for change in her district. “Our area had been falling behind the rest of Cobb County for quite some time. The differences between South Cobb and the rest of Cobb are seen in its upkeep and the quality of development it attracts.”

She decided to run for office after not seeing significant district improvements despite trying to address concerns by serving as her homeowners’ association president, working through various nonprofits and speaking at county meetings.

“The more I got involved, the more apparent it became that there was a disconnect with what the community wanted and what county leadership was doing,” Cupid says.

Cupid took office in January. In her first year, she is focusing on improving the appearance of District 4 through code enforcement and low-cost rehabilitation efforts, such as streetscaping.

“The district’s appearance does not reflect the people here and scares economic development away,” she says. “Appearance is important to create an environment that will improve the number of jobs in the area.”

Cupid completed her advanced degrees as a part-time student and received the College of Law’s David Maleski Scholarship. She is married to Craig Cupid (J.D. ’09), and they have two sons.

http://law.gsu.edu/news/8319.html
Andrew Young’s investment

Young Fellows carry on family mission to pursue the Ph.D. in public policy, economics and criminal justice.

The funding is part of the Young family’s commitment to help train people to work in the United States and the world. Georgia State’s location in downtown Atlanta gives students a historic vantage point to study what Young calls “Atlanta’s fairness formula”: “That we could go forward if we all went forward together. We’ve always been able to package ideas to include everyone, and I think that’s the key to the city’s success.

“Hopefully the world will see some of the things that we’ve made work here, and they [our students] will go back to their countries and help make good things happen there,” he said.

The fellowships are having that impact already, according to the graduate students who currently benefit from them.

Lorenzo Almada, recently named the first Jean Childs Young Fellow, said the funding was critical in his study of health economics. His career goal is to bring awareness and understanding to issues, such as obesity, that impact the health of children and adults in the United States, especially those with limited means. He is working on identifying incentives that will help people make healthier choices.

“I aspire to be able to compare myself to Jean Childs Young. She was an incredible woman who accomplished a great deal,” Almada said. “Many of our interests are aligned, such as the concern for children’s welfare and passion for education. She was very active in her community and worked hard to improve people’s lives and end disparity and suffering. I would be thrilled to achieve even half of what she did.”

Carolyn McClain Young Fellow Emefa “Emmy” Sewordor served as a bank economist on the Caribbean island of St. Kitts. She observed how technical issues kept her region from meeting fiscal challenges and chose Georgia State University for a Ph.D. in Public Policy with an emphasis on public budgeting and finance. Her previous education included a master’s degree in economics from the University of British Columbia and an honors bachelor of science degree in mathematics and economics from the University of Toronto.

“I intend to return to the Caribbean to work with our governments and then someday to serve with the
Andrew Young Fellow Mark Curtis is a native Atlantan pursuing a Ph.D. in Economics in the environmental, labor and public policy fields. His goal is to help create policy-relevant research that will help to inform public dialogue, rational debate and informed decision making on such issues as the benefits and costs of environmental regulation, employer mandates and government spending. After Curtis finished his master’s degree at Duke, the Young Fellowship was a deciding factor in choosing GSU over several offers.

Curtis recalled the impact of meeting Young at an event crowded with VIPs:

“Upon introducing myself and informing him I was an Andrew Young Fellow, Ambassador Young’s eyes lit up and he proceeded to speak with me for the next 10 minutes about my interests and his vision for the Andrew Young School,” Curtis said. “Having grown up in Atlanta, I have always been aware of the impact he has made on this city and the world, and it was great to meet him in person.

“While I never witnessed the overt racism and violence that drove Ambassador Young to enter politics, I have had the opportunity to see firsthand the problems caused by unemployment, poverty and disease both here in the United States and abroad. Andrew Young responded to the problems he saw by entering politics. My response was to study how these problems are alleviated or exacerbated by the policies that we implement.”

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Emefa “Emmy” Sewordor

United Nations,” said Sewordor, who is co-funded through a Fulbright Scholarship. She expects to finish in 2015.

Emefa “Emmy” Sewordor

EMEFA “EMMY” SEWORDOR

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Mauldin Joins AYSPS Advisory Board

The Andrew Young School welcomes Judy Mauldin, chair of the Fulton County Arts Council, as its newest advisory board member.

Passionate about using the arts and hip-hop music to empower youth and build communities, Mauldin brings more than 25 years of experience as a dynamic and creative professional, philanthropist, humanitarian, and brand development and marketing specialist.

"Judy's passionate commitment as a champion for youth empowerment, educational issues and capacity building in the community are genuine and infectious," says Dean Mary Beth Walker. "Her experience complements our school's contribution to shaping policy for real people with real problems."

"I came from a family of college-educated hard workers who were always involved in the community," says Mauldin, a native of Silver Spring, Md. "I remember my mom packing us up with a lot of food to go to Washington, D.C., to feed people. As a young child, I thought we were just having lunch with some people in the park. I didn't realize they were homeless."

After attending the University of Maryland, Mauldin worked for The Washington Post Companies and LEGI-SLATE, Inc., an online federal legislative and regulatory tracking system for lobbyists, state legislatures, labor unions, trade associations and embassies.

"I was taking everything in like a sponge," says Mauldin, who in less than two months at LEGI-SLATE rose from temporary receptionist to director of training and in two years became one of four national regional managers.

In 2001 Mauldin, along with Michael Mauldin and Jermaine Dupri Mauldin, co-founded Hip Hop 4 Humanity (HH4H), a nonprofit educational and health initiative for at-risk youth worldwide that uses hip-hop as a conscious way to educate and inspire.

"A lot of people do not realize that the hip-hop community has a caring and social conscience," says Mauldin, whose motivation for founding HH4H was prompted by a Washington Post article that negatively portrayed the industry during the 9/11 disaster. "For example, when 9/11 happened, Jay Z had just released a new album, of which he donated a significant portion of the proceeds to assist 9/11 victims and their families. Sean Combs wrote a check for $1 million to the American Red Cross."

In 2005 she launched The Business of Entertainment, an alternative education program at Emory University in partnership with Communities in Schools. It was selected in 2011 by the International Council of Caring Communities/UN-HABITAT, a United Nations agency that acknowledges socially and economically sustainable projects, for inclusion in "Music as a Global Resource," a project that uses music as a development tool to address social and economic issues.

"My purpose in life is unfolding," says Mauldin. "I'm on a mission; there's no stopping me. I'm saving the world one child at a time."